REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated October 24, 2003. Claims 1 to 32 are in the application, of which Claims 1, 9, 17 and 25 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Initially, the Examiner's attention is drawn to the Information Disclosure Statement dated April 27, 2000. Consideration of the art cited therein is respectfully requested.

Claims 25 to 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter. These claims have been amended and are believed to comply with § 101. Withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 101 rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 4, 6, 7, 9 to 12, 14, 15, 17 to 20, 22, 23, 25 to 28, 30 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,149,323 (Shima). Claims 5, 13, 21 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Shima in view of Japan 8-152985 (Hirose). Claims 8, 16, 24 and 32 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Shima in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,424,429 (Takahashi). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention relates to the production of printing data based on document data produced by an application. More specifically, the present invention relates to the processing of printer settings. The present invention combines each value of a plurality of settings into a combined setting. When printer setting is performed via a

setting sheet (e.g. a user interface), the present invention registers the combined setting in a combined setting list. A user is able to select one of the combined settings registered in the combined setting list. Each value of the plurality of setting items of one combined setting is displayed in the setting sheet (e.g. a user interface) when the one combined setting is selected by the user. In the case that one value of the setting items is changed in the setting sheet, the present invention changes the displayed name of the combined setting list so that the user is informed that the changed value is different from the value of the setting items associated with the name of the combined settings. In this way, the user can easily discern that a change has been made to a registered combined setting.

With specific reference to the claims, independent Claim 1 recites an information processing apparatus for producing printing data, which is interpretable by a printer, based on document data produced by an application. The information processing apparatus comprises combined setting registration means for combining each value of a plurality of setting items into a combined setting and registering the combined setting in a combined setting list when printing setting is performed via a setting sheet to produce the printing data. The apparatus also comprises selection means for selecting one of the combined settings registered in the combined setting list by designating a name of one of the combined settings, and display control means for controlling display of each value of the plurality of the setting items of one combined setting in the setting sheet when the one combined setting is selected by the selection means. The apparatus further comprises changing means for, in case of changing one value of the setting items via the setting sheet, changing the displayed name of the combined setting list so as to inform a user that the

changed value is different from the value of the setting items associated with the name of the combined settings.

Independent Claims 9, 17 and 25 are method, storage medium, and computer-executable program code claims, respectively, that correspond generally to independent Claim 1.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or suggest the features of independent Claims 1, 9, 17 and 25, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or suggest the feature of changing the displayed name of the combined setting list so as to inform a user that the changed value is different from the value of the setting items associated with the name of the combined settings, in case of changing one value of the setting items via the setting sheet.

Shima relates to a print system which includes a printer and a setting device for receiving a setting value specifying a print mode which entered by a user. Shima teaches that setting values used by a printer controller in the past are stored separately from a document. When a new document is to be printed, the user can select setting values from among the stored setting values, or in the alternative, the user can enter new setting values in lieu of the stored setting values (column 2, lines 56-67).

When a user chooses to enter new setting values, Shima teaches that a name is assigned to the setting value, the setting value is stored, and the setting value is recorded along with a document name on correspondent table 41 (column 5, lines 1-9; Fig. 3). In contrast, if the user selects a preexisting setting value, Shima teaches that the selected setting value is recorded along with the document name on correspondent table 41 (column

5, lines 27-59; Fig. 3). Therefore, Shima is seen to teach that preexisting printer setting values can be used, or in the alternative, new printer settings can be selected and given a new name.

However, Shima is not seen to teach that the names of the preexisting printer setting values contained in correspondent tables 41 (e.g. "Fa1.JL", Fig. 4) can be changed, muchless that such a change could be in response to changing one value of the preexisting printer setting values. Shima is only seen to teach naming setting values in the situation where entirely new setting values are selected by the user (column 5, lines 1-9; Fig. 3).

As such, Shima is not seen to disclose or suggest changing the displayed name of the combined setting list so as to inform a user that the changed value is different from the value of the setting items associated with the name of the combined settings, in case of changing one value of the setting items via the setting sheet.

The remaining art applied against the claims, namely Hirose and Takahashi, is not seen to supply what is missing from Shima. Accordingly, based on the foregoing, independent Claims 1, 9, 17 and 25 are believed to be allowable.

The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims and are believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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